

From: Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds <Lizzette@ExcelinEd.org>
To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 9/7/2018 11:47:26 AM
Subject: That's a wrap! Our final #AskExcelinEd Summer Learning Series post.

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Summer Learning Series

We're wrapping up our #AskExcelinEd Summer Learning Series today. Thanks for following along as the ExcelinEd team shared what they were learning over the summer, and remember you can always access this series on [our blog](#). We hope you enjoyed it!

Meet Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds

Vice President of Policy

I grew up in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. My parents did their best to support us financially, but at the end of the day, they left it up to my siblings and me to figure out our own pathways to success. For me, it was making good grades, self-advocating for rigorous coursework and getting accepted to college. Once there, it was up to me to figure out how to pay for it and how to earn the credits necessary to get my degree. I believe the opportunity for high school students to earn *at least* one meaningful post-secondary credential is absolutely critical for individual success and our country's economic success. (Check out our [College and Career Pathways](#) policy page for more info!)

I Prefer...

Print Book *over*
E-Book

Text *over* Phone
Call

Traditional
Watch *over*
Smart Watch

Tea *over* Coffee

Recommended News Read

"Remembering 'A Nation
At Risk': Reflections on
Politics and Policy" —
Education Next

My Twitter Favorites

@citizenstewart

@smarick

@CRPE_UW

@TexasTribune

@AdamPeshek

What I'm Reading

I'm currently reading *The Content of Their Character: Inquiries into the Varieties of Moral Formation* by James Hunter and Ryan Olson. It offers a powerful reminder that academics are important, but so is the moral and civic formation of our students.

I also recommend that everyone re-read *A Nation at Risk*. ([This copy](#) is from the ERIC archives in all its glory!)

Research I'm Reading

- *What Parents Want from Education: The Case for Real Choices* — by Real Choices
- *The 5Essentials System: Data and Insight for School Improvement* — by UChicago Impact
- *Developing Life Skills in Children: A Road Map for Communicating with Parents* — by Learning Heroes

Thought Starter

My Favorite Quotes

- "It always seems impossible until it's done." — Nelson Mandela
- "It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men." — Frederick Douglass
- "The parenting style that is good for grit is also good for most other things; be really, really demanding, and be very, very supportive." — Angela Duckworth
- "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" — Erma Bombeck

Excel/Ed Resource Highlight

My colleague Karla Phillip's blog post, "[A Mother's Crusade: My Special-Needs Daughter Is Thriving in a School Committed to Inclusion. I'm Fighting So More Kids Have That Chance](#)," reminds me that when we advocate for policy we should always remember (1) our families and (2) that one size does NOT fit all.

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